

## Message Text

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62

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 COA-02 EB-11 INT-08 SCI-06 EPA-04

CEQ-02 DODE-00 HEW-08 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01 /081 W

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R 271010 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4860

UNCLAS TOKYO 8112

PASS NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE/ NAKATSU

S/ FW- COA

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EFIS, TBIO, JA, US

SUBJECT: MERCURY IN TUNA

REF: STATE 122620, TOKYO 7971

1. C. CARRY ( TUNA RESEARCH FOUNDATION), E. PETERSON ( VAN CAMP SEA FOOD), AND M. LOEWE ( STAR KIST) ARRIVED TOKYO JUNE 19. TENTATIVE PLAN TO LEAVE JUNE 28.

2. LOCAL OFFICES VAN CAMP AND STAR KIST ARRANGED VARIOUS MEETINGS WITH MEMBERS JAPANESE TUNA ASSOCIATION. GROUP ALSO MET WITH NAKABE ( TAIYO), NISHIMURA ( NIPPON REIZO), AND DR. AMANO ( DIRECTOR TOKAI REGIONAL LABORATORY JFA).

3. PURPOSE OF TRIP WAS TO INFORM JAPANESE TUNA INDUSTRY ON PROGRESS OF STUDIES ON MERCURY IN TUNA FINANCED IN PART BY U. S. TUNA INDUSTRY.

4. REGFISHATT DID NOT REPEAT NOT ATTEND ANY OF ABOVE MEETINGS. GROUP HAS KEPT REGFISHATT WELL INFORMED OF VARIOUS MEETINGS AND SO FAR AS KNOWN, NO RECOMMENDATIONS WERE MADE.

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5. REGFISHATT ARRANGED APPOINTMENT WITH FURUZAWA ( FOOD SANITATION DIVISION, MINISTRY HEALTH AND WELFARE) BUT DID NOT ACCOMPANY. FYI ALTHOUGH NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN PRESENT MERCURY PROBLEM ( THIS BEING HANDLED BY MILK AND MEAT SECTION), FURUZAWA TOLD

REGFISHATT FOLLOWING DAY THAT HE APPRECIATED OPPORTUNITY TO BE BRIEFED ON U. S. RESEARCH.

6. TODAY REGFISHATT ARRANGED COURTESY CALL ON DIRECTOR-GENERAL ARAKATSU ( FISHERY AGENCY). CARRY PRESENTED ONLY BRIEF REVIEW OF RESEARCH IN PERU AND AMERICA SAMOA SUPPORTED IN PART BY U. S. TUNA INDUSTRY ( NO RESULTS, NO DETAIL). BOTH AGREED THAT IN THE MANY TESTS ( BOTH U. S. AND JAPAN) NO IINDICATION COULD BE FOUND ANYWHERE OF MERCURY POISONING IN TUNA FISHERMEN, EVEN THOUGH THEY BASICALLY SURVIVE ON TUNA AND RICE WHILE AT SEA FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME.

7. ARAKATSU CONFIRMED PRESENT REGULATIONS APPLY ONLY COASTAL FISHTUNA ARE COMPLETELY EXECUDEE.

8. DOCTORS MARSH, TURNER AND SMITH ( ROCHESTER UNIVERSITY) ARE IN JAPAN AT INVITATION DR. TSUBAKI ( NNIIGATA UNIVERSITY) TO OBSERVE PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM MINAMATA DISEASE AND DISCUSS PROGRESS OF U. S. RESEARCH. THEY ALSO PLAN TO GO TO KUMAMOTO FOR SIMILAR PURPOSE BEFORE RETURNING TO U. S. END OF THIS WEEK. RGFISHATT HAS MET DOCTORS BUT HAS HAD NO OTHER CONTACT.

9. PRESENCE OF TWO GROUPS IN JAPAN AT SAME TIME COINCIDENTIAL AND HAVE NOT PARTICIPATED IN SAME MEETING S. INGERSOLL

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

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